GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3350
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
INDO-US BIO-TECH ALLIANCE
PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have formed a bio-tech alliance;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the alliance will work towards collaboration in the research areas; and

(d) if so, the possible areas identified therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : The Confederation of Indian Industry initiative to launch a US-India biotech alliance under the aegis of US-India Economic Dialogue is just a proposal at this stage. It has not been launched as yet.

(c) & (d) : As proposed, private industry and institutional participation will be coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Industry in India and the US India Business Council in US. Major activities of the proposed alliance will be focused on support to the development of biotech industry in India, promote commercial joint ventures, collaborative research, public-private partnerships, technology trade, licensing and distribution agreements. The activities will also include specialized conferences and seminars, executive missions to both countries, fellowships and funded research, meeting of experts for regulatory and legal reforms, advocacy to remove impediments in the biotechnology trade, establish working group on international trade and treaties, videoconferences and internet based communication and technical cooperation to build regulatory capacity. Possible areas for research may include bioinformatics, genomics, diagnostics, vaccines, recombinant therapeutic proteins, new drug discovery, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology and training.